



Council 4 AFSCME
Testimony before the Judiciary Committee of the
Connecticut General Assembly
March 16, 2012

Good morning Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Lisamarie Fontano. I am the president of AFSCME Correction Employee Local 387 of Council 4 AFSCME. Our union, along with Council 4 AFSCME and correction locals 391 and 1565, represents nearly 5,000 front-line correctional employees in Connecticut.

Our union supports:

- **S.B. No. 367 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC INDECENCY IN A CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**
- **H.B. No. 5429 AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCLOSURE OF THE IDENTITIES OF PERSONS APPOINTED TO ADMINISTER THE DEATH PENALTY.**

SB 367 makes public indecency by inmates a Class D felony. Some inmates regularly masturbate in front of or sexually harass our members in other ways. This bill gives the Department of Correction a tool to try to curb this behavior. Corrections jobs are already stressful. Harassing behavior makes the job even more stressful. Extremely disruptive behavior in close surroundings, where our members are often surrounded by many inmates, can lead to dangerous situations.

Council 4 also supports HB 5429. This bill shields the identities of employees who are members of execution teams. The most high stress task that a government can ask of an employee is to carry out an execution. This bill at least provides some assurance to correction employees that the state will attempt to shield their identity.

Our members are very aware that law enforcement officials can become the targets of crime, off the job, because of the work that they do. We have heard testimony in this committee before about the murder of the federal judge's family in Chicago, after she was threatened for presiding over the trial of a white supremacist organized crime leader.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to answer any question or provide further information.